

BUSINESS END OF MANCHESTER

The Growing Villages of Manchester Center and Manchester Depot.

Center of Thrift and Prosperity of the North Shire of Bennington County, Including Twin Villages That are Hard To Beat.

(Compiled and Edited by Melvin H. Robinson.)

The north part of Bennington county including Manchester was seldom visited by the white man previous to its permanent settlement.

The charter of Manchester given by Gov. Wentworth dated Aug. 11, 1761, though much damaged, is still in the possession of the town. It conveys the township in the usual form of the New Hampshire grants to sixty-four grantees therein mentioned. The grantees, with few if any exceptions, were residents of New Hampshire and not one of them it is believed ever set foot in the town.

It is said that a small party from the



JUDGE FOWLER.

east side of Dutchess county, New York, soon after the date of the charter, finding themselves accidentally within the limits of Manchester, were so far pleased with the appearance of the country as to undertake its purchase. He that as it may, previous to Dec. 11, 1764, the original grantees had transferred a large interest in the township to sundry individuals at Albany, N. Y. At a meeting of the proprietors of the town of Manchester, held in Amoenia, Dec. 11, 1764, we find only 21 of the shares not represented.

There is but little doubt that the first permanent settlement was made in the summer of 1764, and in the south-west part of the town on lands then owned by the Purdys and Pettibones. It is said that Samuel Rose built the first house on the farm owned by Hon. J. S. Pettibone, doubtless in 1764 or 1765.

The first framed house was also built by Samuel Rose in 1769, not far from the point at the foot of the hill where the highway to Bennington approaches the Skinner Hollow brook. In 1768 the inhabitants were almost entirely from Dutchess county, a few, however, came from Berkshire county.

The south-west and north-west sections of the town were at first most numerous occupied. At an early period there was a small village on the main road a mile south of the court house near the residence of Hon. M. Hawley.

The township of Manchester is situated in a pleasant valley, strongly enlivened by the Green mountains on the east, Equinox on the west and Dorset mountains on the north.

Mount Equinox is one of the grandest and most beautiful of the New England mountains. Its summit, which lies within the town, is 3706 feet above tide water and 2915 feet above the village at its base. From its lofty height as well as from Dorset mountain, the prospect is magnificent.

The Baptist society church was formed here in 1781. Rev Joseph Cornell the first pastor, and the first settled minister in town. Services were held at first in the upper building near the marble mill on Glebe brook and was occupied un-

til 1831 when a brick edifice was erected. Since the organization of the society there have been sixteen ministers and the average number of communicants since 1858 has been about 100, the present pastor being Rev J. S. Brown who is well liked by his people.

The Congregational society was formed in 1782, the church in 1784. The present church edifice was erected in 1829. The Rev James Anderson officiated as pastor from 1829 to 1858 with about 180 communicants.

The present pastor of the Roman Catholic church is Father Dwyer by whose efforts the present structure was built and who is doing a great work among his people in Manchester.

The Protestant Episcopal church in Manchester was organized in 1782. The church was built in 1821 with about 60 communicants, Rev. C. R. Batefelder, rector. A society of Campbellites was organized and a house of worship built about the year 1845. The society at first was quite flourishing but has now I believe been disbanded.

The M. E. church is a small but comfortable home for the followers of John Wesley. Their church while small occupies a large place in religious work.

But and Burton seminary needs but a few words as it is of such high standing and well conducted. Its graduates speak more highly of it than can possibly be done by the writer.

In speaking of the beautiful villages of Manchester as they are today, commencing with Manchester Depot, we find the manufacturing concerns of Norcross & West with eighteen gangs of saws cutting up massive pieces of marble, running day and night. Next comes Judge Fullerton's marble and granite works.

Then comes G. W. Bradley's butter box factory who does a large business in that line. This part of the town has grown rapidly in the past few years and contains many fine residences and comfortable homes and does a large mercantile business for a village of its size.

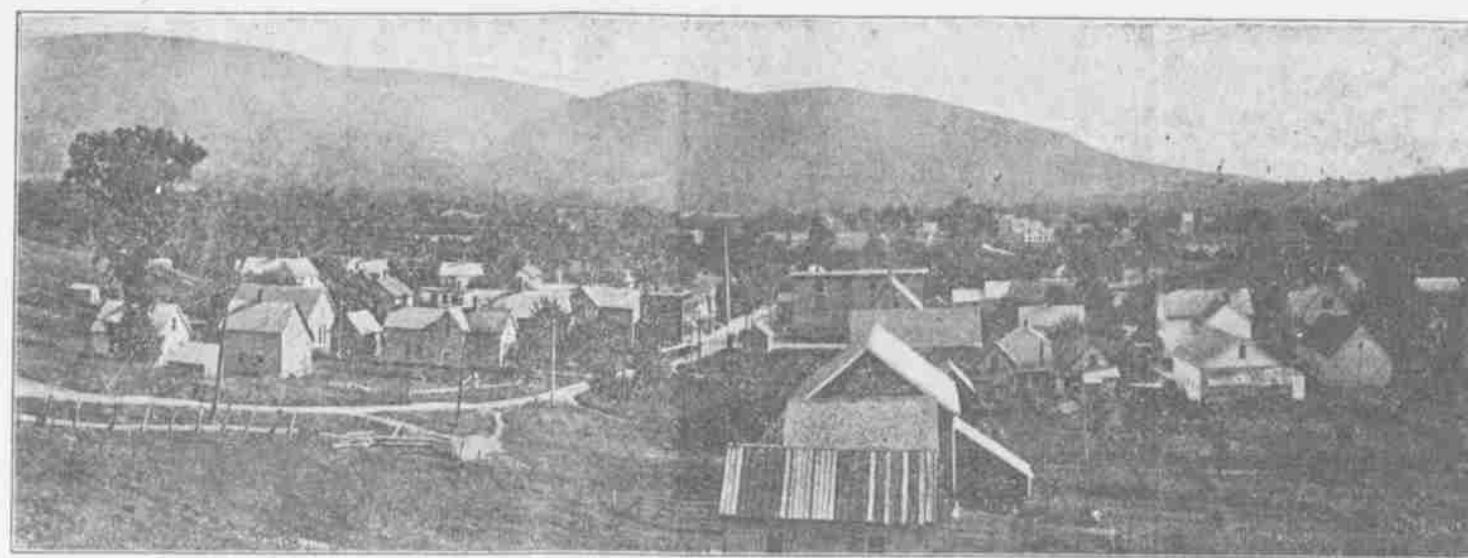
As we go about one-half mile up the hill we come to Manchester Center where business interests are well represented. There are three churches, Methodist, Baptist and Episcopalian besides a large commodious graded school building. The Center also contains two hotels, the Colburn and the Grand View, both doing a good business with the traveling public.

One and one-half miles from the Center lies the village of Manchester Street,



W. H. ROBERTS.

which is one of the finest summer resorts in the country. It is directly at the base of the Equinox mountain where the noted Equinox spring has its home and the water is shipped to great distances, and the Equinox house is one of the largest



THE BUSIEST PART OF THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER.

and best in the country and its patronage is very large.

The town of Manchester altogether is one of the most picturesque, has the best drives and they are prepared by their fine stores to supply you with every want.

If you deny yourself a visit to these villages, you lose the beauties of some of America's fine scenery.

Church of the Conversion of St. Paul.

Much that appears in the sketch of St. Columban's church, Arlington, as regards its early history, is also true of "St Pauls"



CHURCH OF THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL.

in Manchester. As in Arlington, the Catholics of Manchester were visited from time to time by Father Daley, who undoubtedly celebrated the first Mass here.

In later days and after the erection of the diocese at Burlington in 1853, priests from Rutland and Bennington made occasional visits to Manchester to administer to the spiritual wants of the faithful.

For many years after the appointment of a pastor to East Dorset, the Catholics of Manchester were accustomed to hear

A., and Merens of Albany Diocese, Rev D. J. Wholey of Boston, Arch. Diocese, Rev George H. McDermott of Springfield and Rev Thos J. Fitzgerald of Ogdensburg, N. Y. The music of the Mass was rendered by a choir composed of priests of the Diocese under the direction of Rev J. J. Boyle of East Dorset organist.

The Catholic church in Manchester has experienced a healthy growth dating from the building of "St Pauls". When the parish was formed there were about 250



ZION EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Mass and receive the sacraments at St Jerome's church in that village. Occasionally Mass was celebrated in Manchester but always either in a private house or, as in later days, in the county court house, the only house of Catholic worship found by Father Dwyer on his arrival here in May, 1896. On this date, (May 24) '96, Father Dwyer succeeded Rev F. H. Paquet as pastor of Arlington and Manchester. In the same year, July 4th, ground was broken for the erection of a much needed church edifice.

The cornerstone of "St Pauls" was laid by the Rev Father Lynch, V. G., of Fairhaven, having been delegated by the Bishop of the Diocese on September 3, 1896, and the first Mass was celebrated at midnight Christmas day of the same year by the pastor, Rev John W. Dwyer.

In August, 1897, Father Dwyer took up his residence in Manchester and in 1899 erected a parish house in Franklin avenue on the property adjoining that of the church on the north. August 13, 1900 was an eventful day for the Catholics of Manchester, for on that day the new church was dedicated under the title of "The Conversion of St Paul." Present on this occasion were the Rt. Rev John L. Michael, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese;

Rt. Rev Musgr. Cloarce of St Joseph's church, Burlington.

Solemn High Mass was celebrated with Rev Father Barrett, rector of the cathedral Burlington as celebrant, assisted by Rev J. P. O'Neill of Northfield as deacon and Rev James P. Rand of Hyde Park as sub-deacon. An eloquent and instructive discourse was delivered by the Rev J. M. Brown of Pittsford.

The occasion was honored by the presence of many other clergymen from the Diocese of Burlington, besides the above mentioned participants in the ceremony, and by the following priests from neighboring dioceses: Rev Frs. Fields, O. S.

church is now out of debt and the debt on the parish has been greatly reduced, a very creditable showing for a small parish with limited means. Much credit is due also to many sincere friends outside the church who have contributed liberally to its support, moral and financial. Notable among these are the well known and much respected citizens of this town and of the county of Bennington, the late Hon Franklin H. Orvis, proprietor of the Equinox House; and the Hon Judge Loveland Munson of the Supreme bench of Vermont.

The Catholics of Manchester are truly devoted to the cause of church and state. They are of Irish and Canadian extraction—good timber indeed for the upbuilding under the fostering care of the church they belong to, of a staunch and true American citizenship.

From present indications and past successes, it augurs well for the future of "St Pauls." There is yet much to be done, and it is the constant prayer of Manchester's true Catholics that "God may give the increase."

The Baptist Church.

This church, the oldest religious body in the town of Manchester, was constituted June 22, 1781 by Elder Nathan Mason and other representatives of the church at Lanesboro,



THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

Mass. It seems that many early settlers of the town come from a Baptist colony in Berkshire that had come up a few years before from Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. At the same time Elder Joseph Cornell was elected pastor, and Benjamin Vaughn chosen clerk, holding that office for a period of ten years.

A house of worship was built about 1790-93, for a number of years the growth of the church was far from rapid, but from date of organization until the present time the church has occupied its important field with more or less vigor, and has been a power for good in the community at large. A succession of earnest and faithful men have occupied its pulpit, and been found among its office bearers. Among its pastors have been Rev. G. B. Hulbert D. D. now Dean of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago; Rev D. F. Estes D. D., of the faculty of Colgate Theological Seminary, Hamilton, N. Y.; and the



"WHERE EVERY PROSPECT PLEASES."

Catholics of Manchester have shown genuine enthusiasm and have given every support called for. The result is, the

Rev J. S. Brown, the present pastor, settled in February 1901, and is aided in the work by the following official board of deacons: J. Battis, who has served for over 49 years as a member of the board; A. F. Smith, M. L. Manley, H. C. Buss, Wm. J. Hicks. Trustees: J. Battis, A. F. Smith, M. L. Manley; clerk, J. Battis; treasurer, Mrs Horace Fuller; Superintendent of Sunday school, R. Burr Gleason. Membership 122. The value of the church property is estimated at \$10,500.00, and during this year the church has raised for home expenses and denominational benevolences about \$1,450.00.

Zion Episcopal Church.

Zion church at Manchester Center practically had its beginning in 1782, under the Rev. Gibeon Bostwick. It was incorporated in 1806. The present church was built and consecrated in 1821 by the Rt. Rev. Alex V. Griswold D. D.

It was then named Zion Church. Among its long list of rectors, the Rev. Abram Bronson held first place in length and value of service. He was rector from 1802 to 1832.

The church property is centrally located and consists of the church and rectory. It is free from debt and there

is an endowment, the bequests of Mrs. H. H. Baxter and Mrs. Schuyler Skatts.

The present rector is the Rev. Hamilton D. B. MacNeil. The wardens J. H. Whipple and J. C. Blackmer. The vestry I. H. Dench; C. L. Dench, Sec.; E. A. Fisher, J. C. Heinel, W. H. Roberts; C. B. Rowe, Treas.; E. A. Tuttle, E. L. Wyman, C. E. Young.

Hon. Harvey K. Fowler.

Judge Fowler's name when mentioned will call to the memory of all who know him pleasant thoughts. He is one of those hearty genial men whose tales of his past experience in life are both pleasant and interesting. His 85 years of life has been filled with experiences that the ordinary walks of life do not bring.

He was born June 1, 1818 in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess county, N. Y. His early days were spent at Verbank located in the same county. In 1837 he came to Manchester and completed his education at the Burr & Burton seminary after which he studied law with the Hon. A. L. Miner member of congress for this district and who was also law partner of Gov. Sargeant for eight years and several years with Daniel Roberts.

He was admitted to the bar at the June term 1843. In 1844 he married Mary J. Noble who died September 1902. They had four children, one daughter with whom he now resides, and three sons, Warren, E. H., and J. W. Warren is a resident of West Lebanon, E. H., of Sunderland and J. W., of Manchester.

He has practiced law for 60 years having been allowed to practice three years before admission to the bar and has been honored with the following offices: Judge of probate court 28 years, grand juror 20 years, justice of

the peace 20 years, deputy county clerk 40 years. His life history is one that a few moments conversation shows to have been busy and eventful.

Mammoth Bullock.

When calling on W. R. Dean of Manchester Center I saw what is called the largest horned animal in the world.

When alive he measured from roots of horns to root of tail 12 feet and 2 inches, from point of shoulder to point of hips 9 feet and 6 inches, height 6 feet and 10 inches, girth 11 feet and 8 inches, across the breast 2 feet and 6 inches, across hips 3 feet and 4 inches. He weighed at 5 years of age 4240 pounds.

At the time of his death good judges from different states estimated his weight at from 5500 to 6500 pounds. He was raised by Mr. Dean, who has him mounted in his barn, and is a sight worth seeing.

J. Harry Lawrence.

You would never regret visiting the beautiful little studio of Harry Lawrence in Manchester Depot. Have you an eye for fine art? It is here it can be found, for there is no class of

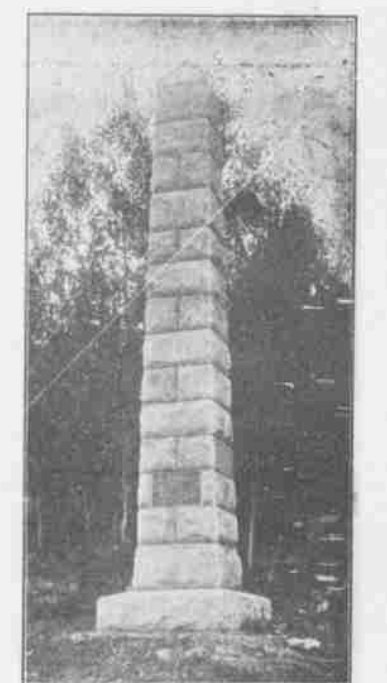


J. HARRY LAWRENCE.

work he does not do. The art of Photography in all branches, Van Dyke & Lyrite work the latter the most expensive work produced, can be done at this studio and at no other in the state. Then you may desire a Portrait in oil or crayon he will do it and guarantee the work satisfactory also Pastel and crayon portraits.

J. Harry Lawrence has a large experience as a Photographer he commenced the work when but 12 years of age as an amateur and from that, though he has had a natural liking for the business and has risen to where he can compete with the best in our larger cities in fact his winters are spent in the city galleries and his summers at his home studio.

He commenced business in Bennington in 1880, came to Manchester in 1894, went to Buffalo in 1898 where there he enlisted with the Genesee Rifles for service in the Spanish war, and in August 1898 was honorably discharged. He again returned to Manchester Depot where to day the largest



STARK MARKER AT PERU.

and latest line of accessories can be found within a radius of 50 miles. He has the art of posing perfectly, with out which no photographer should pretend to do business as it is this that makes the life and beauty of the picture.

An hour or more spent in his studio is certainly an hour of pleasure that can be enjoyed by any who have a taste for art, and Mr Lawrence will show you the greatest courtesy, and any person wishing to look over his portraits will always be made welcome. Mr Lawrence expects in the near future to open a studio in Gardner, Mass. The photos for these illustrations of